

REMARKS

A non-final Office Action dated March 22, 2005, rejected Claim 1 then pending. The applicant respectfully submits new and amended claims; and therefore respectfully asserts that the claims are allowable over the cited art.

35 USC § 102 REJECTIONS

The applicant currently has amended Claim 1, and has also added additional claims. In respect to *Tan* (#5,711,400), *Tan* teaches a work platform that is attached to the ladder by attaching and hooking a small plate and a large plate onto the steps of a ladder. (see column 1, line 56 – column 2, line 3). Further in order for the invention in *Tan* to be operable it needs a long plate and short plate. (see *Id.*). Also, *Tan* requires in Claim 1 that: “connection bars of said long plate and of said short plate together embrace a step of said ladder and said clamp bars of said long plate and of said short plate each hold another step of said ladder in a grip.” Finally, even though column 4, line 33 states that “both plates of the work platform of the present invention are independently usable,” *Tan* only teaches an alternate use of the short plate as a table on a folded ladder. These teachings diverge from the horizontal table unit on a non-folded ladder claimed in the current application.

Taylor, Sr. (#3,503,468) discloses broad surface platforms on which a user can stand safely and comfortably while working. (see abstract). Finally, *Nelson* (#2,069,969) discloses a scaffolding where a person can be supported and can do work. (see column 1, lines 4-21). Further, *Nelson* and *Taylor* both teach a platform that is operated while the ladder is in the vertical position, whereas in the current application the invention as now claimed is operated while the ladder is in a generally horizontal position.

Therefore, each of these prior art references fails to describe the novel features of the currently claimed invention.


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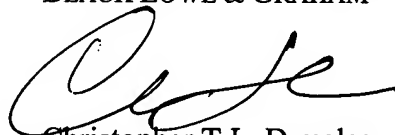

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CONCLUSION

The Examiner is kindly thanked for the careful attention to the present application. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage of the claims through issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

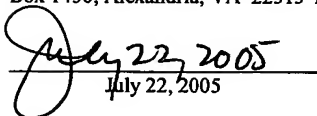
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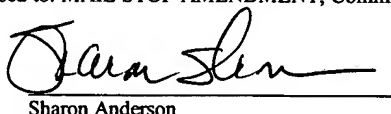


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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


July 22, 2005


Sharon Anderson

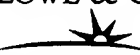
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